



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

Minutes for

COMMISSION MEETING

10:30 a.m., November 15, 2019

Location: 1330 Lady Street, Suite 401, Columbia, SC

Members Present: Harry Dest (Chair), Jack Howle, Jr., Rep. Jay Jordan, Jr., Michael Lifsey, John Nichols, Ashley Pennington, Walker Willcox

Members Absent: Hon. Thomas Cooper, William Epps, Sen. Gerald Malloy, Hon. Daniel Pieper, Ashlin Potterfield

Staff Present: Hugh Ryan, Herverly Young, Lawrence Brown, Rodney Grizzle

There being a quorum, the Chair called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: Motions were made to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2019 quarterly meeting, the August 23, 2019 Special Meeting, and the October 18, 2019 Special Meeting. Each of those motions were seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Oversight Committee Update: Director Ryan provided an update on the Commission's progress in complying with the requests of the Oversight Committee.

FY 2019-20 Budget Status: Director Ryan provided an overview of the status of finances and expenditures for the current fiscal year.

FY 2020-21 Budget Request: Director Ryan discussed matters to be included in the FY20-21 budget request including efforts to increase the salaries of the circuit public defender administrative assistants to bring them in line with the Solicitors' administrative assistants and to obtain funding for additional attorneys and staff for public defenders to meet growing demands and increased responsibilities, and to maintain parity with the Solicitors.

Training Update: Mr. Brown provided information on Public Defense 101 to be held in November, juvenile trainings with the addition of the Juvenile Advocate, and distance learning with the addition of new online capabilities licensed by the State.

Juvenile Advocate Grant: Director Ryan informed the Commission that Aleksandra Chauhan, formerly a juvenile defense attorney with the 5th Circuit Public Defender, has been

hired through a three-year federal grant to evaluate the State's juvenile justice system, and to work with juvenile defenders to provide training and improve advocacy for juveniles throughout the State.

2020 Proposed Meeting Dates: Director Ryan provided the Commission with proposed hearing dates for February 28, 2020, May 15, 2020, August 21, 2020, and November 20, 2020. Those dates will be published on the Commission website, but they are subject to change if necessary.

Indigent Screening Regulations: Public Hearing - A public hearing was held regarding the Commission's proposed Indigent Screening Regulations. No members of the public appeared. Following the public hearing and discussion by the Commission, a motion was made to approve the proposed Indigent Screening Regulations. That motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Executive Session: The Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Action out of Executive Session: Following the executive session, a motion was made for the chairman to send a letter to the Agency Head Review Board recommending that the Agency's Executive Director receive a salary of \$145,000.00 per annum. That motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the members present.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed, and the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Brown
Deputy General Counsel